REMARKS

The above amendments to the above-captioned application along with the following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response to the Official Action dated March 23, 2005 and the telephone interview with the Examiner and his supervisor on June 21, 2005. Applicants thank the Examiners for taking the undersigned representative's telephone calls and providing the relevant information. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to give due reconsideration to this application, to indicate the allowability of the claims, and to pass this case to issue.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-17 are under consideration in this application. Claims 1-17 are being amended, as set forth above and in the attached marked-up presentation of the claim amendments, in order to more particularly define and distinctly claim Applicants' invention.

All the amendments to the claims are supported by the specification. Applicants hereby submit that no new matter is being introduced into the application through the submission of this response.

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 on the grounds of being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,741,724 to Bruce et al. (hereinafter "Bruce"), in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,695,204 to Stinson et al. (hereinafter "Stinson"). These rejections have been carefully considered, but are most respectfully traversed.

The computer-implemented (including computer managers, computer terminals, databases and a network shown in Fig. 1) form processing system of the invention (for example, the embodiment depicted in Fig. 1), as now recited in claim 1, comprising: a management system 203 of form identification dictionary including a manager 111 of form identification dictionary for creating and managing a form identification dictionary 112 for identifying a type of a printed form (e.g., the bill shown in Fig. 3); "ruled lines/frames printed on the form" [0005]); and a plurality of form processing terminals 121, each of said form processing terminals 121 having a

form identification dictionary 122 for identifying the type of the form, and identifying the form to process the form. The management system 111 of form identification dictionary and said plurality of form processing terminals 121 are interconnected via a network 101. The form processing terminal 121, upon occurrence of failure in identification of the form based on said form identification dictionary 122 of said form processing terminal 121 itself, transmits image information of the form to said management system 1111 of form identification dictionary. In particular, said management system 111 of form identification dictionary, when said image information of the *form* transmitted from said form processing terminal 121 has not yet been registered in said *form* identification dictionary 112 of said manager 111 of form identification dictionary, creates information for identifying the type of the form ("*As the form identification information, ... for example, such information as the size or dimension of form sheet, information about ruled lines/frames printed on the form, character strings representing the title of the form, etc.*" [0005]), stores the created information in said form identification dictionary 112 of said manager 111 of form identification dictionary, and transmits the created information to said form processing terminal 121. The last paragraphs of other independent claims recite a similar feature.

In other words, when the terminal/system fails to identify the type of the printed form, i.e., a new printed form, it adds the new printed form into the form identification dictionary 112 or revises/updates an existing form. The invention changes the form identification information (to be used to identify form types) to cope with a vast number of kinds of formats and printed forms (p.4, lines 14-20). The identification dictionary is a dictionary containing information used for identification of form types, e.g., Figs. 3-4. It contains information that would be pre-printed on the form, such as the size or dimension of form sheet, information about ruled lines/frames printed on the form, character strings representing the title of the form, etc. ([0005]), but not any elements to be filled in by individual users and would be different with each of the printed forms of the same type, such as "ICHIRO SUZUKI" (the actual name) or "AUG. 1999" (what might be called the content). It is this printed *FORM* identification information that is the object of updating in the dictionary.

Applicants respectfully contend that none of the cited prior art references teaches or suggests "when said image information of the printed *form* transmitted from said form

processing terminal has not yet been registered in said printed *form* identification dictionary, creating information for identifying the type of the printed form, storing the created information in said form identification dictionary, and transmitting the created information to said form processing terminal" as in the invention.

In contrast, Bruce only processes an existing information form, such as a postal change of address form (Abstract), but not revising an existing from or adding a new printed form in a form identification dictionary. Even if, arguendo, Bruce's system inherently has a dictionary for storing several forms (col. 1, lines 11-15), Bruce does not revise an existing printed form or add a new printed form in the dictionary.

In addition, the data elements updated in Bruce are hand-written ("*those inevitable persons who cannot stay [write] inside the lines*" col. 4, lines 25-26) address data (rather than any printed forms) to be stored in a National Change of Address (NCOA) database (col. 2, lines 61-64). Bruce's OCR software merely identifies characters/texts but not any printed form. The NCOA **address** database is essentially different from the printed **form** identification dictionary of the invention since the NCOA database cannot be referred to in order to perform form analysis. Naturally, Bruce has no need to and does not transmit the updated address data back to the scanner. As admitted by the Examiner, Bruce does not teach transmitting the created information to said form processing terminal (p. 4, lines 3-4 of the outstanding office action.

Moreover, rather than **extract**ing printed forms as does the invention, Bruce's "*OCR software **ignores** the preprinted data on the form* (col. 4, line 27)," but is only directed to addresses written by a user. It is well established that a rejection based on cited references having principles that teach away from the invention is improper.

Stinson was relied upon by the Examiner to teach transmitting the created information to said form processing terminal. However the check cashing unit only accept existing check forms, but not accepting any new check form such that it does not created any data of a new form to be transmitted to a form processing terminal.

Although the invention also applies the general text data identification (e.g., OCR) and updating mechanism, the invention first applies an identification mechanism on printed *FORMs* to be able to handle a vast number of kinds of printed formats and forms.

Applicants contend that neither Bruce, Stinson, nor their combination teaches or discloses

each and every feature of the present invention as disclosed in independent claims 1-2, 6-7, 10 and 13-14. As such, the present invention as now claimed is distinguishable and thereby allowable over the rejections raised in the Office Action. The withdrawal of the outstanding prior art rejections is in order, and is respectfully solicited.
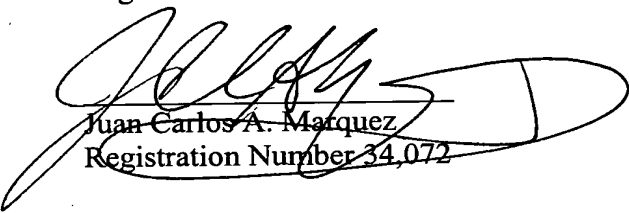
Conclusion

In view of all the above, clear and distinct differences as discussed exist between the present invention as now claimed and the prior art reference upon which the rejections in the Office Action rely, Applicants respectfully contend that the prior art references cannot anticipate the present invention or render the present invention obvious. Rather, the present invention as a whole is distinguishable, and thereby allowable over the prior art.

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding issues requiring discussion that would further the prosecution and allowance of the above-captioned application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the address and phone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

Stanley P. Fisher
Registration Number 24,344

Juan Carlos A. Marquez
Registration Number 34,072

REED SMITH LLP
3110 Fairview Park Drive, Suite 1400
Falls Church, Virginia 22042
(703) 641-4200

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SPF/JCM/JT